

COMPLETION OF TONOPAH RAILROAD

Three Days of Celebration, the Greatest Carnival in the History of Nevada Making a New Epoch in the Bonanza Camp

The Tonopah Railroad Carnival is over and the event is written in indelible ink on the pages of the history of the state of Nevada in imperishable characters: that time cannot efface. To say that the celebration which extended over three short days eclipsed anything of the kind ever previously held in this state is but to give feeble expression to the general sentiment of all, visitors and natives alike. From far and near they came, puritan Philadelphia, classic Boston, mormon Salt Lake, speculative San Francisco, all helped to swell the tide of humanity that crowded the first trains into the famous Bonanza Camp of Nevada. Ranchers, miners, capitalists, brokers, machinery men, journalists, pretty girls and handsome women surged up and down the Main street of Tonopah, surprised at the size of the town and lost in admiration that a mining camp of its age could boast such handsome stores, such excellent restaurants and such refined taste in street and store decorations.

"Formerly a Desert, now Tonopah," the legend on the band stand appealed to all. To think that only four years and two months ago this was but an unknown spot on a trackless desert, the home of lizards and horned lads, today a town of 5000 people, clustered around some of the richest mines of America, prosperous and happy, eager to demonstrate to the world their abiding faith in the great camp which by means of the railroad will prove to the world the amount and wealth of the vast treasures stored in its barren hills and hidden beneath its sandy sage brush plains. And Nature approved, the heat of the bright Nevada sun which shines more in this state than elsewhere in the world, was tempered by cooling breezes and relieved by occasional showers of rain which if they spoiled the bunting were none the less welcome on that account. Then followed the gloriously cool starlight nights enabling all to take the rest so dearly earned so doubly enjoyed.

Lined with trees decked with bunting, gay with the hundreds of Stars and Stripes fluttering in the breeze, Main street was transformed; at the lower end an impromptu band stand had been erected and near the Cutting building stood Jim Butler's old tent in which he camped when he took the first samples from the outcrop of the famous Mizpah vein, little thinking then that those few pieces of hard white quartz stained with manganese were the foundation stones of a future city, the keys to the greatest mineral district on the Pacific coast since the discovery of the Comstock. And it may be that this discovery of Butler's with the later discoveries made by others at Goldfield and other nearby camps but due indirectly to him, will yet surpass in output the wonderful sum of \$640,000,000 credited to the famous Comstock lode.

At the corner of Brougner avenue and Main street was the stand for the drilling contest, in the center the block of Archean granite, to test the skill and muscle of the best drillers of the west who had gathered here to see the famous camp and to strive for the splendid prize of \$450 which was given to the winning team. A few feet further south is the handsome band stand to remain a permanent feature of the town. If Main street looked gay by day, it was fairyland at night, strings of electric lights bordered the sidewalks and hung in graceful glittering festoons across the street, over the night air were wafted the strains of music so beautifully played by the Carson State band and the Tonopah brass band, mingled with the laughter and chatter of the happy crowd which thronged the streets or sat in knots on the verandas of the hotels and buildings; and above all rockets soared and colored lights flared from the summits of Mt. Oddie and Mt. Brougner. Yes, it was a great and glorious success, Tonopah has cele-

brated and will now settle down to business.

THE CEREMONIES.

The celebration commenced early Monday morning on the arrival of the first train—the steam for the locomotive being generated by Nevada coal, mined by the Nevada Fuel & Manufacturing company at Coaldale—for which many Tonopahans had waited up all night. As, however, the travellers were tired with travel the first number on the program was not started until 1 p. m., when P. M. Bowler, as president of the day, opened the ceremonies with an address, preceded by a prayer delivered by the Rev. F. H. Robinson. Mr. Bowler spoke felicitously on the auspicious occasion of which this was the opening ceremony, referring to the vast mineral wealth placed in the everlasting hills by the Creator, the search for which had caused this desert to become populated. He spoke of the rapid growth of the small camp of a few pioneers to a modern town with all the latest conveniences of civilization, the building of the railroad proving the faith of capital, advised by mining engineers, in its great and lasting permanency, and with a happy reference to the future growth and wealth of this district concluded an oration that was loudly and deservedly applauded.

The ceremony of crowning Miss Belle Pepper as Queen of the Carnival was carried out by W. B. Pittman. The Queen, who looked charming in a handsome white silk dress, was attended by her maids of honor, Misses Gwenevere Bertrand, Alice McCourt, Juanita Mitchell and Lillian McDonald, with Miss Blanche Rose and Master Ray Burner as pages.

After this came the parade, in the van of which were a squad of aides followed by the Carson State band in their handsome white uniforms, performing in their most brilliant manner, then the float "Nevada" bearing the Queen and her attendants followed by a carriage containing the Tonopah Railroad officials, Alonzo Tripp, General Superintendent; John M. Fulton, Freight and Passenger Agent of the Southern Pacific, Hawthorne division; P. J. McGrath, Superintendent of the same; and R. W. Welch, Chief Engineer of the Tonopah R. R. In another carriage were Governor Sparks and Mrs. Sparks with Jim Butler and Mrs. Butler. The Miners Union, wearing the Western Federation badges, followed, after which came the fire brigade float, which, appropriately enough, was the handsome new hook and ladder truck, built in Tonopah, drawn by the firemen headed by Chief McKenzie, Miss V. McDonald, fire queen. The Eagles drum and fife corps, led by Captain James, drum major, came next, followed by the members of the Order who were loudly cheered, their handsome float bearing the magnificent eagle recently presented to the Aerie by Governor Sparks, won the magnificent silver loving cup presented by George F. Blakeslee, the jeweler, for the best decorated float. They were followed by the Tonopah brass band in their new khaki uniforms with red trimmings, and well sustaining their reputation as splendid musicians. Following them was Ryan & Stenson's handsome float representing the interior of their busy store filled with fair customers; the Miners' drug store carriage followed, and then the Lothrop-Davis company with a reproduction of the first load of freight brought in Tonopah with Dick Davis as teamster. Then came George Money's cow and calf, the former a "Tonopah producer," the latter bearing the device "I drink ma's milk." After this came an ore team of one wagon and two trailers drawn by 28 animals and loaded with 30 tons of ore from the Curtis-Ridge lease on the Jumbo vein at Goldfield. This ore was worth \$1,500 per ton, or \$45,000, and was

followed by the Crocker-Salsberry team of twenty-two animals with twenty tons of ore from the January lease worth \$1,000 per ton. Following this came Harry Hudson's team and the float of the Nye County Mercantile company. The rear of the procession was made up by crowds of sightseers on foot and in all kinds of conveyances who followed to the track to witness the driving of the gold and silver spike.

This ceremony was preceded by a short but pithy speech by Alonzo Tripp, who then drove the spike in good workmanlike style. The spike which was of silver with inlaid letters of gold will eventually adorn the Philadelphia office of the railroad. Mr. Tripp expressed a hope that before many months he would drive a golden spike at the completion of the Goldfield road, a sentiment loudly cheered. Governor Sparks then made one of his happy speeches voicing the general opinion that the road now completed was tapping the richest mineral district in the world. Mr. Fulton, in a short speech, referred in eulogistic terms to Jim Butler, the father of the camp, the ceremony concluding with three rousing cheers for T. L. Oddie. After which the Queen performed the christening ceremony with a bottle of Mumm's Extra Dry Champagne.

The first day's ceremonies were brought to a close by an excellent production at the Opera House of that capital play "My Friend From India" in which the Tonopah Dramatic Company's acting drew long and deserved applause. Prior to this a reception to Governor and Mrs. Sparks was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Key Pittman, the crowded attendance testifying in no uncertain way to the popularity of our worthy governor.

TUESDAY.

The day opened with foot races, the 100 yard dash going to Bert Lundy with F. K. Goodman second, the winner's time being twelve seconds. Boys race, Jim Gale, first; Otto Wise, second. Small boys race, Will Mitchell, first; Joe Elliott second. Girls race, Emma Wise, first; Mary Thomas, second. Ladies race, Mrs. Ed Carlin, Goldfield, first; Maud Williams, second. Fireman's hose cart race, Platt and McKenzie Tonopah teams tied in the excellent time of 13 seconds, the Goldfield team a half second behind. The double handed drilling contest which followed was productive of some fine drilling and the changing of drills by Welch evoked hearty applause. The result was in favor of Cundy & Malley of Tonopah, who drilled 381 inches in the fifteen minutes and won the first prize of \$450. This splendid record was closely followed by Welch & Burgoyne of Diamondfield who drilled 371-16 inches. The betting on this event was very lively and large sums of money changed hands, Smith & Mulcore making 30 inches.

Everyone then adjourned to the ball grounds for the game between Tonopah and Reno the first team being made up of Spainhower, Platt, Swanston, Dexter, Litchenberg, Howard, Dehy, Henderson and Russell; Reno being represented by White, Goodwin, Hansen, Hale, Ewing, Frazer, Ransdell, Westhall, Stoddard and Cameron, the game resulting in the victory of the Overland team with a score of 13 to 9. In the evening Prof. Eddy gave his wonderful Japanese webbing act on Main street, after which came the Eagles' grand ball held at both the opera house and the miners' union hall, the decorations of which were greatly admired. At the former the Carson State Band discoursed delightful music, and the Tonopah brass band at the other hall was at its best. Both halls were crowded to the doors, the ball at the opera house being opened by Governor and Mrs. Sparks and by Charles Kielhofer and the Carnival Queen at the miners' hall. Dancing was kept up until a late, or early, hour, and a most enjoyable evening

was spent.

WEDNESDAY.

The bronco breaking contest did not prove a success as there was not one bronco with sufficient "go" in him to raise a kick and it was therefore postponed until September 24 when some young bucking horses will have been specially secured.

The single handed drilling contest attracted large crowds, Ritchie, in the 15 minutes contest, drilling 221-16 inches, and Pittman 203-8 inches, the betting on both men being very spirited. The other score were: Springmeyer, 194; Enochue, 1715-16; McCarthy, 1715-16; Arroe, 151.

The baseball game which followed between the Overland team of Reno, winners of the previous day's match, and Goldfield resulted in an easy victory for the Overland team with a score of 12 to 7, the gold camp team being represented by Morris, Duffield, Woodbury, Ducky, Spainhower, Fesler, Gregg, Iman and Sullivan.

This game was followed by the foot race from the Nye County bank to the top of Mt. Oddie and return which was won by Bert Lundy, of Lundy, California, in the splendid time of 14 min. 19 sec. Clark second in 14 min. 58 sec., hundreds of dollars changing hands over the event.

One of the great features of this day was the Indian parade headed by Jim Butler and preceded by the Tonopah brass band, the Indians in wagons and on foot following a team driven by Hank Knight and protected by Sam Thomas, drawing a load of provisions which were afterwards distributed among the Plutes. The occasion brought forth a capital speech from Jim Butler, characteristic of the man, and his overflowing good hearted feelings for the noble "Red man." In reply speeches were made by two Indian braves which were loudly cheered by the crowd.

A humorous feature of the day was the court instituted by the Eagles with Ole Elliott as judge before whom prominent citizens were haled for various offenses, the charge against Jim Butler of having too much money being proven, he was fined \$20. Subsequently the father of the camp relieved Ole of his onerous duties and promptly arresting the retiring judge, fined him \$20 for incompetency.

As on previous evenings, fireworks and open air music added to the gaiety of the crowds who pelted each other with confetti and crowded the restaurants with merry supper parties.

One of the great treats enjoyed by the visitors was the invitation to visit the famous Montana-Tonopah so generously and courteously extended by the management, over 300 availed themselves of this privilege to view the wonderful property, and all were lost in amazement at the showing of rich ore. Crowds also eagerly inspected the ore specimens on show in the windows of the banks. Ore from the January at Goldfield, worth \$1 per pound, from Tonopah-Gold Mountain mine \$21,000 per ton, Tonopah Extension \$1500, North Star \$2178, McNamara \$300, Liberty 3000 oz. silver and many more too numerous to mention, but sufficient to prove the vast wealth of a district still unexplored to-day. There was also the 188th bar of bullion from the 10-stamp mill of Tonopah Milling, Mining & Development company. This was extracted from Midway ore, one of the best mines in the camp, and demonstrated that these ores can be treated locally.

This account would be incomplete without expressing proper appreciation of the energetic efforts of the railroad officials during the time of construction and all praise is due to Supt. Alonzo Tripp, his son Herbert and Chief Engineer R. W. Welch for the vigorous manner in which the difficulties surrounding the laying of the last two miles of track, owing to the strike of the men, were overcome. The Tonopah Railroad is fortunate in the selection of those who were in charge of the work and the officials who will now manage the road. As a mark of appreciation of Contractor McSweeney's sterling qualities, and his timely assistance at the last minute in bringing his own staff to take the place of the striking workmen, the citizens of Tonopah have presented him with a gold watch and chain, a handsome memento of the Tonopah railroad.

BASEBALL.

During the railroad celebration a baseball game between Tonopah and Goldfield teams for a side wager of \$500 was successfully contested in the presence of an enormous crowd of spectators, the result being in favor of Tonopah on a score of 13 to 7.

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